

Message Text

SECRET

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61

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 W

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R 041240Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6713

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T TEHRAN 4544

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IS

SUBJ: TALK WITH ISRAELI OFFICIAL

1. URI LUBRANI, ISRAELI UNOFFICIAL AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN, CALLED ON ME JUNE 4 FOR PURPOSE OF INQUIRING AS TO MY READING ON IRANIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS AS RESULT OF RECENT SPATE OF IRANIAN ECONOMIC DEALS WITH ARAB STATES. SHORT VERSION OF MY REPLY TO HIM WAS THAT IRAN HAD NOT RPT NOT CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL, THAT DEALS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES WERE DESIGNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT SITUATION TO DEVELOP FOR IRAN FRIENDLIER ARRANGEMENTS THAN HAD EXISTED IN RECENT PAST E.G. EGYPT AND SYRIA.

2. LUBRANI HAS HAD DIFFICULT TIME DURING NINE-MONTH PERIOD HE HAS BEEN HERE. HIS PREDECESSOR STARTED OUT IN LIFE AS AN IRANIAN, AND HANDLED MOST OF HIS JOB HERE ON QTE OLD BOY BASIS UNQTE. LUBRANI FOUND IT NECESSARY TO CHANGE EVERYTHING FROM HIS STAFF TO HIS OFFICE DECORATIONS. IT HAS BEEN UPHILL FOR HIM AND HE IS CONSTANTLY CONCERNED WITH HOW HARD HE SHOULD PRESS FOR INFORMATION IN VARIOUS AREA. HE IS NOW AT POINT WHERE HE BELIEVES HE SHOULD TRY TO INTEREST IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IN JOINT PROJECTS SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY AND INCREASING PRODUCTION OF PHOSPHATES TO BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES. HE RECOGNIZES HIDDEN AND UNHIDDEN INHIBITIONS WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE SUCH PROJECTS, BUT HE FEELS THAT ISRAEL'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT REQUIRES THAT HE MAKE EVERY EFFORT. HE POINTED OUT THAT A RECENT RENEWAL OF THE JOINT VENTURE ON THE PIPELINE IN ISRAEL WENT THROUGH

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WITH A BREEZE. HE INCIDENTLY POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL MADE \$28

MILLION ON THE OPERATION OF THIS PIPELINE THIS PAST YEAR. LAST WEEK NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN ON THE CRUDE OIL CONTRACT FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1974. QUERIED AS TO HOW IT WAS THAT THEY SHOULD BE NEGOTIATING THESE CONTRACTS TWICE A YEAR, LUBRANI TOLD ME THAT IRANIAN GOVERNMENT FORCED THE ISRAELIS TO BID AT THE AUCTION LAST FALL, STUCK THEM WITH THE HIGH PRICE PREVAILING AT THE TIME BUT AGREED TO RENEGOTIATE THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE END OF SIX MONTHS. IT NOTEWORTHY THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT YET LIFTED TOTAL COMMITMENT OF FIRST SIX MONTHS, HENCE THE REMAINDER WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR. NATURALLY LUBRANI IS HOPING THAT THE IRANIANS WILL GIVE THEM A BIT OF A PRICE BREAK THIS TIME AROUND PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE PRICE DIFFERENTIAL EXISTING NOW AS COMPARED WITH THE END OF 1973.

3. HAVING BEEN IN ISRAEL TWICE WITHIN THE LAST MONTH, LUBRANI IS PERSUADED THAT THE RABIN ADMINISTRATION WILL BE BATTERED, THAT THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS WITHIN THREE OR FOUR MONTHS, THAT DAYAN WILL EMERGE AT THEAD OF GOVERNMENT AFTER THESE ELECTIONS. RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH GUESSTIMATES ARE A DIME A DOZEN IN TEL AVIV, BUT SIMPLY PASS THIS ONE ON FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL STABILITY, FOREIGN TRADE, PETROLEUM PIPELINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN04544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740141-0886
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740675/aaaacmvj.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH ISRAELI OFFICIAL
TAGS: PFOR, IR, IS, (LUBRANI, URI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005